

Montgomery County, MD
COUNTYWIDE RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

*September 27, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.
MNCPPC Headquarters Building, 3rd Floor Meeting Room
2425 Reedie Drive, Wheaton, MD 20902
Virtually Via Microsoft Teams*

Present Board: Karen Kincer, Dave Pullen, Carl Blake, Alison Gillespie, Donald Hawkins, Michael Ma, Mark Pharaoh, Felecia Wilson, Helaine Resnick, and Otto Gonzalez **Ex Officio:** Jeff Sullivan, Kendall Matthews **Staff:** Robin Riley, John Nissel, Doug Ludwig, Sandra Samuel, Melanie Sasse, and Adriane Clutter **Absent:** Janet Dixon, Mike Riley, Melanie Stickle, Ramona Bell Pearson, Benjamin DuGoff, Marsha Weber, Myriam Paul, Traci Anderson, Michael Shimoff, Marcus Coleman, and Chris Richardson

Meeting called to order by Karen Kincer at 6:48 pm

Welcome and Announcements – Chair

- Karen welcomed the board

Review of Agenda

- Motion made by Dave Pullen and Carl Blake was seconded. Approved / Accepted by Board

Review and approval of minutes from May and June

- With minor corrections to May minutes, Motion made by Otto Gonzalez and Mark Pharaoh was seconded. Approved / Accepted by Board

Member input on Community events and happenings

- Karen thanked Parks, and MCRD for The Parks Half Marathon held on Sunday, September 26th
- Mark mentioned The Burtonsville Day Celebration 30th Annual Parade, and Festival on Saturday, September 25th, reiterated the importance of the community involvement and attendance
- Carl has attended Master Swimming workouts. Also, attended Opera in the Circle held on Sunday, September 19th, well attended
- Alison had an opportunity to play at the new Paint Branch Trail, East County. Also, attended the Long Branch Festival held on September 10th-12th, very successful.
- Carl attended Public meetings near Woodward High School, the neighbors that live in that community inquired about Timberlawn Local Park being used for sports by the high school. Wanted to prepare John for further inquiries.
- Alison - Wheaton Regional Plan has been released, excited about plans.

Action Items from Retreat

Social Media

- Melanie will put together a PowerPoint presentation on social media for the board. Also, guidance from staff on what the group can do.
 - Group Communications and feedback
- Revitalization Google Calendar/Classroom for the board for better communication, calendar, and documents
- Job Descriptions and the responsibilities of board members
 - Donald and Dave – Will work together and talk offline.
 - Robin stated the requirements are listed on Montgomery County, MD under Boards, Committees, and Commissions.
 - Karen will attach documents and links to Google Classroom.

Discussion and highlights distributed via Ex Officio Reports

Community Use of Public Facilities – Ramona Bell Pearson

- Submitted electronically

Commission on Aging – Kendall Matthews

- Pop-up clinics for Seniors to get vaccinations starting last year are still running
- Met with County Council Vice President on Friday, and he informed us that 86% of the 65 and older have been vaccinated.
- Additional vaccine doses (booster shot), residents age 65 and older available in pharmacies
- Free-Ride Program for People with Disabilities and Seniors to ride free on Metro Train Stops during specific hours
- Continue food security and nutrition options for seniors.
- Continuing to make sure people can stay in their home is not evicted.
- Safe sidewalk for Seniors to prevent falling

Community Action Board – Myriam Paul

- No Report

Montgomery County Public Schools – Jeffrey Sullivan

- Schools are back in session, full-time, five days a week
- MCPS Athletics has been in session since last February in-person
- School have begun rapid testing – updated quarantine protocol with over 160,000 students
- Records crowds at our games, massive support from the communities, fully up and running
- COVID-19 Task Force continues to meet weekly on Wednesdays, providing updates On Mondays and Tuesdays on any updates to DHS, Department of Homeland Security, finalize any protocol, and changes and communicate to the communities on Fridays
- Staff from Parks and MCRD are on our communication mailing list, will continue to add additional people when requested
- THE R.A.I.S.E Core Values of MCPS Athletics is on the website.
- Masks continues to be required, indoors, at all time, that includes during competition
- Requiring vaccinations for students' athletics starting with the winter season on November 15th

- Presently, 88.9% of our 12 and older population in Montgomery County is fully vaccinated, and 97.9% of all eligible residents of 12 and older have received one dose.
- We are conducting County Championship games in the soccer field, hockey, volleyball, basketball, baseball, and lacrosse on a pilot basis.
- Digital ticketing will be a part of our operations, allowing online purchases, and control gathering sizes. We are moving forward with technology.
- Equity is the core value of our MCPS Athletics, and MCPS is conducting an anti-racism audit and will align our actions and recommendations with the larger audit. We are very much a partner with the school system and the extension of the classroom, we take equity very seriously, and MCPS will continue with that process.
- MCPS will celebrate the 50th year of Title IX.
- Appreciate Parks and MCRS for using the facilities.
- Karen: Any discussion on clinics in schools.
 - Jeff – Yes, I will continue to push forward with those. Also, on the website, information on where the latest vaccination clinics are.
 - Alison – How are you going to verify student athletics?
 - MCPS offers online registrations through Synergy ParentVUE and paper copies.

Commission on People with Disabilities – Benjamin DuGoff

- No Report

Parks Report - John Nissel

- We are continuing to work on our budget, presenting it to Planning Board in mid-October.
- Wrapping interviews for the Parks Activation Director
- Activation events scheduled through Spring
- We are purchasing snow making machine, to have snow activities in Parks.
 - Carl – Is it expensive?
 - \$45,000
- COVID-19 Vaccination Mandate implemented, effective October 31st
- Montgomery Parks passed a Minimum Wage to \$15/hour starting on January 1, 2022
- The team is getting ready for winter and preparing snow removal to keep the trails and adjacent access areas (parking/mass transit access) safe and passable.
- Covid numbers are high.
- Microchip shortage because of Covid, used for software registration
- Events
 - Yappy Hour, September 30th, 6-8pm, Elm Street Park
 - Open House South Germantown,
 - Salsa in Park, Long Branch Neighborhood Park, on October 8th
 - Moosum Open House on October 2nd
 - Nightmare on Elm Street, Elm Street Park, on October 31st
 - Garden of Lights will be timed-entry tickets for a specific date and time will be required and must purchase in advance to prevent walks in
 - Pickleball Courts Ribbon Cutting on October 18th
- Alison – Besides the CCT, are the other trails being plowed?
 - No, not currently.

Recreation Report - Robin Riley

- Homeless Shelters, Long Branch, and Coffield will stay in place until at least December 31st.
- Longwood closed for a project.
- South County Regional and Recreation and Aquatic Center are well on the way. The facility is expected to open in Spring 2023.
 - Presentation in the next meeting
 - Public meetings will start soon. I want to invite the board for input, Silver Spring community, and housing development through HOC on programs ideas.
- Registrations for Basketball has started, closes on November 13th
- The pool inside Piney Branch Elementary School, built in the 1960s, was not passed by the health Inspector. I reached out to MCPS with major safety considerations.
- Migration Training for staff will begin the first week of October.
 - What is being on the customer side?
 - Felecia is working with us and has met with our IT Manager and communication team to time.
- MCRD will be launching Spring Registration on February 14, 2022.
- We had a meeting last week with Brinks. We (Rec) will have our own "Build Your Own Guide" on the Rec website, and Parks will have their own on their site. The requirements gathering project would give a more accurate estimate, an improved development process, and a more reliable timeline.
- We are transporting Senior from Long Branch communities to Wheaton.
- East County Rec. Center will be closing October 11th as it will be a vaccine site for seniors who need to get the booster shot. Food distribution will remain in place.
- Swimming is up and running, and progress is being made on getting the dive program re-worked.
- County employees, both career and seasonal, are not required to be vaccinated. We are still in negotiations.
- Afterschool Program has started. Middle schools began today, and elementary will begin next week. Four sites have already started.
- Alison – Will staff assist with vaccines.
 - Robin – No. We have a contractor.
- Montgomery County Recreation (MCR) will host an Innovative Contactor Fair to recruit experienced and passionate instructors interested in working with MCR on October 14th at Wheaton Community Recreation Center.
- John did a fantastic job with White Oak Center renovating the field.
 - We need to do better maintaining the trash
 - Communicate in newsletter and signage
 - John and Robin will have conversation offline.
- Karen – Adrienne, are there any modifications to the basketball game – four players on a team or more substitutions, so that the kids get a break.
 - Adrienne – Rotations are something we can discuss. We are open to suggestions.
 - Lowering the price of basketball, make sure that it is equitable.
 - We will need masks marketing help.
 - Mark – What is the biggest issue with the elementary after-school programs and recreation centers?
 - Robin – Parents don't want to put their kids on the bus.

- Adriene – More parents are teleworking.
- Dave – Do Parks and MCRD maintain crime statistics?
 - John – Yes, Parks keep are the data - statics

Important items coming up in the community

- 2021 MRPA Maintenance Equipment & Materials Showcase, October 15, 2021, 8-2pm, Pope Farm Nursery, 7400 Airpark Road, Gaithersburg, MD
- Robin – CE timeline for the FYY23 budget forums starting in October.
- Melanie is working on the social media aspect.
- Karen will work on classroom revitalization and internal group communications.
- Don and Dave will work on job descriptions and expectations for a board member.
- John will work on Board's apparel.

8:15 Adjourn – Motion made by Dave Pullen and Carl Blake was seconded. Approved / Accepted by Board